expand the supply of CNS by the setting up of additional on-line stations along the HBJ pipe-line.

(xi) Low-sulphur diesel is being supplied at all outlets of Delhi since 1.4.1996.

(xii) Free polution check camps were continued to be organised the Transport Department, Government of Delhi and by the automobile manufactures.

Hacking of 53000 Trees by Rajasthan Government

3689. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Indian Express" dated the 28th April, 1997 regarding hacking of nearly 53000 trees by the Government of Rajasthan in order to make room for Chappi Dam reservoir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal has been received from the Government of Rajasthan for diversion of 766.00 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Chappi Irrigation Project in Jhalawar District. During scrutiny of the proposal, it has come to the notice of the Ministry that 52906 trees have been felled without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. Accordingly, Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Govt. of India, Lucknow, was asked by this Ministry to investigate the circumstances under which the felling of trees was carried out and submit a report to this Ministry. The report of the chief Conservator of Forests (Central) has been received recently and is being examined.

Aftermath of SC's Judgement on Ban of Non-Forest Activities

3690. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact and the aftermath of Supreme Court's recent judgement banning non-forest activities, like mining in forests; and

(b) how do government propose to cope up with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court are consistent with, and strengthen, the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by directing that all non-forest activities, including mining, within a forest area are permissible only with prior approval of the Central Government. State Governments have been directed to stop all such non-forest activities which had been going on without prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) The Central Government has taken action in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

ध्वनि-प्रदूषण संबंधी कानूनों का अनुपालन

3691. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या ध्वनि-प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए बनाए गए कानूनों पर देश-भर में उचित ढंग से अनुपालन किया जा रहा है,

(ख) क्या ध्वनि-प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए बनाए गए कानूनों का उचित अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कोई निगरानी व्यवस्था बनायी गई है, और

(ग) ध्वनि-प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा राज्य सरकारों को क्या सहयोग दिया जा रहा है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (प्रो॰ सैफुद्दीन सोज़) (क) पर्यावरण (सुरक्षा) अधिनियम, 1986 के अन्तर्गत शांत क्षेत्रों, औद्योगिक, वाणिज्यिक और आवासीय क्षेत्रों के लिए ध्वनि के स्रोत-विशिष्ट और परिवेशी वायु

गुणवत्ता मानक अधिसूचित किए गए हैं। सामुदायिक ध्वनि भी, भारतीय दंड संहिता, दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता और विभिन्न, नगर अधिनियमों के प्रावधानों के अन्तर्गत आती है। प्रेशर हार्न का बजाना, मोटर वाहन अधिनियम 1988 के उपबंधों और इसके तहत् निर्मिक नियमों के तहत् आता है। स्थानीय प्राधिकारी और राज्य सरकारों के संबंधित विभाग संगत अधिनियमों के अन्तर्गत इन मानकों के कार्यान्वयन के लिए उत्तरदायी होते हैं।

(ख) केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड और राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों द्वारा कतिपय शहरी क्षेत्रों में ध्वनि के स्तर की मानीटरन की जाती है। आवासीय क्षेत्रों आदि में आतिशबाजी और विद्युत जनरेटरों के चलने के कारण उत्पन्न ध्वनि के स्तर की जांच के लिए भी विशेष अध्ययन किए जाते हैं। निर्धारित मानदण्डों का उल्लंघन करने के लिए विनियामक एजेंसियों द्वारा अनेक अभियोग चलाए गए हैं।

(ग) केन्द्र सरकार, राज्य सरकारों की विनियामक एजेंसियों को आधारभूत सुविधाओं सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए, जिनमें ध्वनि प्रदूषण मानीटरन की क्षमताएं भी शामिल हैं, तकनीकी और वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करती है।

Causes and magnitude of green house effect

3692. DR D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the basic causes and magnitude of green house effect, and

(b) the effective steps taken to plant new forests to counter its effect?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The basic causes of green house effect are build up of concentrations of green house gases attributed largely to human activities, interalia, fossil fuel use; land use change and agriculture. According to the Second Assessment Report brought out in 1995 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an increase in the global mean surface air temperature (about 0.4°C) has been reported. The increase in carbon dioxide since preindustrial era (from about 280 to 356 parts per million by volume) makes the largest individual contribution to green house gas radiative forcing—1.56 Watts per meter square. Indian scientists and meteorologists have studied the temperature data of India for the past 90-100 years available from India Meteorological Department's network of over 550 stations spread all over the country. These studies on trends and variations of the temperature over India have not found any change beyond the limits of its natural variability.

(b) As per the existing commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, India is not required to adopt any green house gas reduction target(s). Moreover, in India, carbon(C) emissions from forestry are offset by C-sequestration leading to no net C-emission.

Onshore pearl culture in Visakhapatnam district

3693. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether eco-friently onshore marine pearl culture is on the threshold of commercial production in Visakhapatnam district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely market for export of cultured pearls?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Two integrated on-shore marine pearl culture projects with production capacity of 12 Kg per annum each are being set up near Visakhapatnam with technology developed by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. Trial production is expected by December, 1997.

(c) The market for cultured marine pearls is vast, as the present production is insufficient to meet the world's demand. There is, thus, a potential for export of cultured pearls.